



DUKE ELLINGTON

Since my early childhood, I've been crazy about Jazz. This childhood fascination is what inspired me to create Dreyfus Jazz.

I am releasing these masterpieces in order to discover, through another perspective, a collection of the most beautiful tracks ever recorded before 1960 by the biggest and most renowned creators of the lively and flawless language of jazz.

Who is this anthology for?

It's for those who already love Jazz, and for those who will find great pleasure in re-discovering it, thanks to the sound quality that is unexpected and unequaled. It's also for the younger generation who don't yet realize that they are going to love this music that burnt down from its creative violence and its jubilant swing throughout the entire twentieth century.

First, I had to achieve the near impossible: "Break the wall of sound" in order to enhance the already sublime tracks of yesterday... to make them sound as though they'd been recorded yesterday. Thanks to technological information storage and the resolute research of exceptional sound engineer René Ameline (with never ending passion and patience) it was possible to give a "new youth" to the voice of Ella and Billie, and to offer an unheard freshness to formidable improvisations by Louis Armstrong and Coleman Hawkins. We have included the best sources, the best songs, the best documents and there were no "second takes" or "false starts".

I wanted to start from the original signals inscribed deeply in the wax, to enlarge and enrich the entire sound spectrum until it was inaudible and mute. It was necessary to carefully clean each chosen song, meaning that every useless scratch and annoying click had to be wiped, whilst avoiding stripping away the original grainy sound. With this we were able to achieve a more spacious sound, offering more depth and fullness compared to the original 78 record collection. The result is spectacular!

This collection is truly unique. From the will of a passionate perfectionist who manifested its conception like bearing a child, it was championed by a team of specialists who are lovers of jazz in all its dimensions: Claude Carrière, Noël Hervé and Daniel Nevers.

To really define the spirit of this adventure, which has lasted almost two years, I cannot think of a better way to conclude but to quote Claude Debussy: "Finally, a savage music with modern comfort"!

FRANCIS DREYFUS

- 1. JACK THE BEAR** (D. Ellington) 03:17
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra: Duke Ellington (p, dir, comp), Wallace Jones, Cootie Williams (tp), Rex Stewart (cnt), Lawrence Brown, Joe Nanton (tb), Juan Tizol (vtb), Johnny Hodges (as, ss), Otto Hardwick (as, cl), Barney Bigard (cl, ts), Ben Webster (ts), Harry Carney (bar, cl, as), Fred Guy (g), Jimmy Blanton (b), Sonny Greer (d), Billy Strayhorn (arr). Solos: Blanton (b), Ellington (p), Bigard (cl), Williams (tp), Bigard (cl), Carney (bar), Nanton (tb), Blanton (b) **Chicago, 6 March 1940**
- 2. KO-KO** (D. Ellington) 02:42
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Tizol (vtb), Nanton (tb), Ellington (p), Blanton (b) **Chicago, 6 March 1940**
- 3. MORNING GLORY** (D. Ellington) 03:17
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Stewart (cnt) **Chicago, 6 March 1940**
- 4. CONGA BRAVA** (D. Ellington - J. Tizol) 02:57
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Tizol (vtb), Bigard (cl), Webster (ts), Stewart (cnt), Tizol (vtb) **Chicago, 15 March 1940**
- 5. CONCERTO FOR COOTIE** (D. Ellington) 03:19
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Williams (tp) **Chicago, 15 March 1940**
- 6. COTTON TAIL** (D. Ellington) 03:10
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Williams (tp) **Hollywood, 4 May 1940**
- 7. NEVER NO LAMENT** (D. Ellington) 03:18
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Ellington (p) / Brown (tb), Hodges (as), Williams (tp), Brown (tb), Ellington (p) **Hollywood, 4 May 1940**
- 8. DUSK** (D. Ellington) 03:20
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Ellington (p), Stewart (cnt), Ellington (p), Brown (t) **Chicago, 28 May 1940**
- 9. BOJANGLES** (D. Ellington) 02:52
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Ellington (p) / Blanton (b), Webster (ts), Bigard (cl), Ellington (p) / Blanton (b) **Chicago, 28 May 1940**
- 10. A PORTRAIT OF BERT WILLIAMS** (D. Ellington) 03:09
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Nanton (tb), Williams (tp), Bigard (cl), Williams (tp), Bigard (cl) **Chicago, 28 May 1940**
- 11. HARLEM AIR SHAFT** (D. Ellington) 02:59
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1). Solos: Nanton (tb), Williams (tp), Bigard (cl), Williams (tp), Bigard (cl) **New York, 22 July 1940**

DUKE ELLINGTON

- 12. ALL TOO SOON** (D. Ellington) 03:30
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Ellington (p), Brown (tb), Webster (ts)
New York, 22 July 1940
- 13. RUMPUS IN RICHMOND** (D. Ellington) 02:44
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Williams (tp), Bigard (cl), Brown (tb), Williams (tp)
New York, 22 July 1940
- 14. SEPIA PANORAMA** (D. Ellington) 03:24
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Blanton (b), Tizol (vtb) / Williams (tp), Carney (bar), Ellington (p), Blanton (b), Webster (ts), Carney (bar), Tizol (vtb) / Williams (tp), Blanton (b) **New York, 24 July 1940**
- 15. IN A MELLOTONE** (D. Ellington) 03:17
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Ellington (p) / Blanton (b), Williams (tp), Hodges (as)
Chicago, 5 Sep. 1940
- 16. RUMPUS IN RICHMOND** (D. Ellington) 03:23
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Ellington (p), Hodges (as), Stewart (cnt), Hodges (as)
Chicago, 5 Sep. 1940
- 17. ACROSS THE TRACK BLUES** (D. Ellington) 02:56
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Ellington (p), Bigard (cl), Stewart (cnt), Brown (tb), Bigard (cl)
Chicago, 28 Oct. 1940
- 18. CHLOE (SONG OF THE SWAMP)**
(N. Moret - G. Kahn) 02:44
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Solos: Williams (tp), Bigard (cl), Brown (tb), Williams (tp)
New York, 22 July 1940
- 19. PITTER PANTHER PATTER** (D. Ellington) 03:02
Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra (Same as 1).
Duo: Ellington (p) / Blanton (b) **Chicago, 1 Oct. 1940**

Deepest Respect to: Francis Dreyfus, René Ameline.
Special Thanks to: Claude Carrière, Daniel Richard,
Francois Lexuan, Stéphane Berlow, Alain Artaud-Macari,
Ludovic Dury, Didier Dehauteur, Thomas Cerha.